

## Between a Prince and His Lady

*The following is a series of love letters between the honored Prince Severin of Loire and his elegant and always well-mannered wife, Princess Elle*

My Dearest Severin,

I waste away in my private salon, longing for you. You have been gone only four days, and yet I feel like the world has lost its color—perhaps because you have left a legion of soldiers standing guard around Chanceux and they make a rather monochromatic display.

How long shall you leave my heart in desolation? And, pray tell, what is the favored country which can claim your presence now?

With all my love and longing,  
Elle

PS: Where did you hide my favorite crossbow—that was a really unkind thing to do, you overgrown cat!

\*\*\*

Elle,

I'm not telling you how long I'll be gone or where I am because you will undoubtedly use that information to your advantage and evade the soldiers. Stay at Chanceux for once. *Please*.

Love,  
Severin

\*\*\*

Your Worshipness,

We received your letter for Madame Elle, but she's not here to read it. I thought you'd want to know.

Respectfully,  
Heloise

\*\*\*

To My Darling Severin,

Alas, I have missed you too much! I cannot deny the call of my heart any longer, so I have resolved to brave the world and come find you myself.

I will see you soon, my love!  
Elle

PS: It was mean of you to tell the guards I can climb the roof in full skirts. I was going to test their tracking abilities but noooo, they were prepared for me to climb! Now we'll never know what kind of trackers they are—such a pity.

\*\*\*

Elle,  
If you missed me so much why did your letter come from Castle Brandis in *Arcainia* when I am in the opposite direction, in *Erlauf*? Please return home, we're not on good enough terms with Arcainia yet for me to send troops after you, even if they are allied with us against the Chosen.

And though you are concerned for our soldiers' tracking abilities, it seems to me it is subpar if you managed to evade them and head to Arcainia.

Love,  
Severin

\*\*\*

To My Valiant Severin,  
Don't blame the soldiers. They couldn't have reasonably expected Emele to be in on my scheme and give them laced drinks that made them sleep.

How's Erlauf? Are you having fun? Please give Cinderella my greetings if you see her while mucking about with Friedrich.

With as much love as the world can muster,  
Elle

PS: You haven't sent any soldiers to Baris, right?

\*\*\*

Elle—DON'T YOU DARE! **Please**, for all that is holy, GO HOME!

Love,

Severin

\*\*\*

To His Highness Prince Severin,

Greetings! We recently received a letter addressed to Princess Elle from you, but I regret to inform you Elle left not two days ago. My husband, his family, Puss, and I hope your endeavors in Erlauf with Colonel Friedrich are fruitful.

Sincerely,

Princess Gabrielle  
Marquise of Carabas

\*\*\*

To My Conniving Severin,

To turn the Rangers against me and use them to lure me in when I *thought* they were my friends... Well played. Well played, indeed. But was it really necessary to have me locked in a carriage the whole way home?

Regardless. Before the Rangers drew me in with the promise of a secret mission and then dragged me home, Princess Astra instructed me to give you her greetings—her father is a hoot! You'd like him—he showed me his war elephants. They are rather bigger than I imagined they'd be. I don't think we could keep any in Loire, though. I asked, however, we apparently haven't the right vegetation.

Oh! But with your skill in gardening, maybe we could import the right plants and you could grow them in one of your greenhouses?

Please think it over—I think it'd be fun.

With endless love even if you are sneaky,  
Elle

\*\*\*

Elle,

No elephants.

Love,  
Severin

\*\*\*

My Most Muleheaded Severin,

You decide so quickly? Alas! Though at least that will give me an excuse to visit Baris again since I can't see such creatures anywhere else.

When are you coming home? I am for once sincerely wondering because I am missing you something terribly right now. This is inconvenient and a little maddening because it makes me sound like one of those fawning society girls.

With extra love,  
Elle

PS: I found my crossbow—the dining hall was a good spot. It's so freakishly dark in there I didn't notice it hanging on the wall until I decided to have breakfast there this morning.

\*\*\*

Elle,

By the time this letter reaches you, I will be on my way home. I look forward to seeing you soon. I, too, have greatly missed you.

Love,  
Severin

Also—I never meant for your crossbow to be hidden, but put away. You left it on the floor three nights in a row and Jock tripped on it. You should be mindful of the dog and cat—and *no*, I am not referring to myself, but Esses.